

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN



They're back... Of a recent Sunday, David Kuhnle from someplace east and Eric Luksich from closer confinement. Both disappeared back in January.

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And David Knetzer is back from Ronda, Spain. He claims BMW bikes were sparse there.



Uwe and Isabel from Hamburg motored over to Coronado last month with Dan Toporoski. They tried lunch at Miguel's. Isabel said friends in Germany had recommended it. You have to know where Miguel's is. So they parked on E Avenue and walked over.

San Diego Leather Jacket Factory (and other stuff) never was in San Diego ... it *was* in Chula Vista. But no more. Find it on National Ave. in National City, just at 4th. Huge new store.



Wildcat Canyon Sunday started out with Giovanni's shorted (electrically) out of business. So Road Captain Bill Siebold herded all down to the Spice House. Then he climbed a pole to urge the horde of bikers to get underway in some order.



There was some delay in Ramona, when a roving band from Palm Springs staged a reenactment of the original attack, 25 years ago.

Official Escort certificates were prepared courtesy of Brattin Motors, and were awarded atop Palomar Mountain at Mothers.



Then Ron Spicer posed a nostalgic group behind the famous K75C on its last San Diego ride. Herm, center, rode it for years, and did a bit of cosmetic repair after a full moon dinner ride up Palomar. Then Don Petrick cleaned it up a bit. Then Ron did a bit of road testing with it. Now it's sold to Texas.



Then, the Wildcat crew played down the South Grade to Escondido for food and drink and tire kicking and test rides at Brecht. That's the Harley dealer from Palm Springs, Tom Roach on the Rockster. From Brecht's, he and Sybil went to St. Tropez, France.

Lin and Pru (from Perth, Western Australia) met San Diego riders atop Passo Giau in the Dolomites. Now their son's at the University of California, and they're house watching for Kit and Mike Lynch who are off to Spain.

Then there was this fantastic club overnighiter to Santa Maria ... three nights, it was. Road Captain Bill Siebold had scouted the area with Ron Spicer, and chose the Best Western for headquarters ... a really delightful and reasonably priced choice. Would you believe sixteen made the excursion? Some followed Bill through Wrightwood and Mil Portola. Some ventured all the way up to snowy Mt. Piños.



Here, Bill is giving an early morning prep session for the ride to Foxen Canyon and Figueroa Mountain.



Foxen Canyon was lush and green and twisty. Bill made sure that all learned of Mr. Foxen, a German who settled in the area, and led Fremont's soldiers through it to avoid a Mexican ambush. Then Fremont crossed San Marcos Pass and took Santa Barbara on Christmas Day. I guess the Marines were already in the Halls of Montezuma.



Just east of Foxen Canyon is Figueroa Mountain, with a long wild loop road through it. Mostly one lane. One bit is marked "Intermittent Pavement." It must be 6000 feet up in Los Padres National Forest. Wild. Bill is maneuvering to get his bike in front of the sign.



Road Captain Bill, followed by Dave and Donna Turner on the "S" followed by Gary Walker on the RS, and others, in Santa Barbara County.



Would you believe that this road is going to lead to Cold Springs Tavern on San Marcos Pass for lunch. Welcome fires in the hearths. Good food.



In Cambria for lunch, Herm discovered his rear tire was bald! It was supposed to be almost new. This was after a mad dash down Santa Rosa Creek. So the Road Captain led all back up Peachy Canyon into Paso Robles, where Ivan of the Yamaha shop, right, fitted a replacement tire and reported in to Don Picker. The rest of the gang played down a wonderful 229 into Santa Margarita.

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Did you know Kyle Hudson is now a Dive Master?

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Escaping the bonds of assisted living, Jim Boydston was sighted driving this Honda.



And Dr. John Ciccone, this Ducati.

Dr. John is fond of a nice Spanish restaurant on Garnet called Costa Brava. It happens to be the very same place where former club member Frank La Bara had a Mexican restaurant.



John Diffin presents Herm with a 25th Anniversary Wildcat Canyon Award at Mothers.



Remember Bill and Linda Blaylock on their Airhead R80? Now, they're out and about on this great RT. Bill recently tried it sans bags.



And Stacy Silverwood can be spotted on this very red K1.

As you read, he and Carol, along with Kyle and Charlene Hudson are riding and sampling in France ... Provence.

And Blair Balsam and Ira Grossman and Don Picker with Herm and Don Walker are riding across the Pyrenees. And Wesley Stark across Corsica.

